

REMARKS

Claims 25 to 58 are pending in this application. Amendments to claims 24 and 26 are presented herein to more particularly point out, and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added. Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested. It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated **August 2, 2004**.

The rejection of claims 24-30 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Huang et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,683,044) in view of Nishimura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,356,961) has been maintained and is as set forth in the previous office action.

Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested in view of the amendments to claims 24 and 26.

In the amendment to claims 24, the phrase “reaction product of the following (A) and (B)” has been amended to --reaction product obtained from reactants consisting essentially of the following (A) and (B)--. This amendment clarifies that the “reaction product of the following (A) and (B)” referred to a reaction product made by reacting these two reactants, without additional reactants that would have an effect on product. A corresponding amendment is made to claim 26 with regard to the “reaction product of the following (A), (B) and (C).”

Applicant asserts that these amendments are made for clarification only, and are fully supported by the specification. Applicant notes that the original wording, “a reaction product of the following (A) and (B)” does not use an open-ended term such as “comprising.” That the reaction of (A) and (B) involves only (A) and (B) may be seen, for example, in the description on page 14,

lines 3-15, of the specification, in which (A) and (B) are mixed and reacted. Dilution with a non-reactive solvent or may be performed or a catalyst may be used (page 14, lines 16-24), but these materials do not actually react with reactants (A) and (B). The “consisting essentially of” wording of the amended claims clarifies this.

In the general formula of Nishimura et. al. (U.S. Patent 5,356,961), there is the phrase “wherein n is an integer of 0 or 1 or greater indicating the number of the repeating units which compound is obtained by the reaction of epichlorohydrin with xylylenediamine” (Abstract, col. 2, lines 58 to 61).

When n is 0 in the formula of Nishimura et. al., the formula (I) is xylylenediamine. The Examiner states that “if n is 0, then this structure does not contain epichlorohydrin.” However, if so, the former phrase, “n is an integer of 0 or 1 or greater indicating the number of the repeating units,” is contradictory to the latter phrase, “which compound is obtained by the reaction of epichlorohydrin with xylylenediamine.” That is, Nishimura et al. would be self-contradictory if there were no epichlorohydrin. Applicant also notes that, in claim 1 of Nishimura et. al., the case of n = 0 is not recited.

Taking these two phrases to be internally consistent, Applicant submits that the meaning in Nishimura is that when n is 0, the polyamine compound contains both unreacted xylylenediamine and unreacted epichlorohydrin.

Nishimura et. al. states that: “in the case of where xylylenediamine is m-xylylenediamine, it becomes a preferred polyamine represented by the general formula (II)” (col. 3, lines 14 to 16).

As described above, when n is 0, the polyamine compound contains both unreacted xylylenediamine and unreacted epichlorohydrin. When the xylylenediamine is *m*-xylylenediamine, the polyamine compound is represented by the formula (II).

The Examiner states that Applicant's claim language does not exclude any other reactants from the reaction. Although Applicant submits that the original language did exclude other reactants, Applicant has presented the amendment to claims 24 and 26, reciting "obtained from reactants consisting essentially of," to clarify that other reactants are excluded.

Entry of the amendment and reconsideration of the rejection are respectfully requested.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 31-58 are allowed.

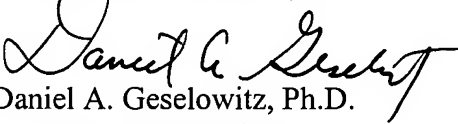
In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicant submits that the pending claims, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned agent at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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